

Vermont Mental Health Futures

Transforming & Sustaining a Comprehensive Continuum of Mental Care for Adults

The scope of the Futures plan is broad. It reconfigures the existing 54-bed capacity at Vermont State Hospital into a new array of inpatient, rehabilitation, and residential services for adults. The plan also calls for significant investments in the core community capacities that proactively meet people's needs, reducing our reliance in inpatient services. The plan calls for the continued transformation of our service system towards a trauma-informed, recovery-oriented, voluntary system of supports.

General Assembly, FY 06 Appropriation

The General Assembly directed that

- The current VSH facility should be replaced with a facility or facilities with fewer than 54 beds and with meaningful programmatic integration of medical and community mental health services.
- The operations and human resources of the current VSH must be supported and enhanced so that the environment is safe and the clinical programming effectively supports recovery.
- The capacity and network of community support services should be expanded to help meet needs in a clinically appropriate manner and in keeping with system values.

Service Components

- New **Inpatient Care**, including intensive care units and specialized inpatient programs (estimated capacity of 32 beds) with more intensive staffing patterns than currently exist at VSH or in community hospital psychiatric units.
- **Crisis Stabilization Beds** (10 beds) in geographically dispersed locations to help prevent hospitalizations by stabilizing clients in crisis before they reach the clinical threshold for hospitalization.
- A **Care Management Program** to ensure that the system can manage and coordinate access to high-intensity services, so that Vermonters have access to the appropriate level of care and the system's resources are used efficiently.
- New **Residential Recovery Programs** designed to meet the needs of a longer-term care population currently served at VSH but who do not need inpatient-level care or a secure setting. (capacity of 16-22).
- New **Transportation Services** (alternative to sheriff transport; additional resources), **peer support**, and **housing**.

Current Work in Process (3/06)

- Architectural review to define space needs and site options for inpatient facility
- Negotiations with potential inpatient partners
- Actuarial study to provide independent projection of psychiatric inpatient beds needs 10 years into the future
- Design and site identification for community residential recovery programs
- Design for a care management system

MORE INFORMATION: 802-652-2003

